

Federal regulators as well were asleep at the switch while Washington Mutual made tens of thousands of risky loans. Consumers suffered as big banks put the interests of big profits and big bonuses ahead of working families.

Now, last week, we hear that the Securities and Exchange Commission filed a lawsuit against Goldman Sachs alleging misdealings in the mortgage securities collateralized debt obligation market. And today the House holds hearings on the fall of Lehman Brothers and the huge negative impact on middle class families from whom the risk seemed to be hidden.

These revelations and the Washington Mutual hearings and the Inspector General report provide a sobering reminder of the urgent need for financial regulatory reform. We must prevent a crisis like this from happening again by imposing strong oversight of financial firms like Washington Mutual, and protecting American consumers and American taxpayers from unfair and abusive financial products like those in Washington Mutual's risky mortgages.

So I urge the Senate to act quickly and pass financial regulatory reform so that the House and the Senate can get together to come up with an even stronger bill, and so that financial firms like Washington Mutual, that, in the future, if they want to drive off the cliff, they may be free to do so, but no longer will American families be trapped in the car as an innocent passenger.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord our God, continuing the work of Your creation, You shape our history and establish Your realm of equality and justice.

The beauty of spring puts to rest our fears that winter would last forever. The movement of the moon and the stars removes the season of dark memories. Nature commands us to adapt to an ever-changing world of light and hope.

Not called to master other peoples or the currents of time; not called to master nature but only uncover its secrets;

not called to master other nations we will find peace.

Created in Your image and likeness, Lord, we struggle to be unique persons of distinct integrity. Finding ourselves in the land of freedom, we are ever-learning how to live in community.

Simply called by Your wisdom and grace, we are to master only ourselves both now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CLEAVER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. DOROTHY I. HEIGHT

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, today America mourns the loss of Dr. Dorothy Height, a civil rights pioneer, Presidential adviser, and woman's rights activist. For many years, this Freedom Fighter served as president of the National Council of Negro Women, the Young Women's Christian Association, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

Dr. Height was the backbone of the civil rights movement and worked alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Whitney Young, A. Phillip Randolph, Roy Wilkins, and our own JOHN LEWIS. During the March on Washington, she was the only African American woman on the speaker's platform during Dr. King's historic "I Have a Dream" speech.

In 1994, President Clinton awarded Dr. Height the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her selfless service to others. In 1995, in my hometown of Memphis, Tennessee, she received the National Civil Rights Museum's Freedom Award. In 2004, President Bush presented her with the Congressional Gold Medal. During Dr. Height's lifetime, the freedom gates were half ajar, yet she fought to open them full and wide for everybody.

Our Nation mourns the loss of a great woman, a great African American leader, a great civil rights leader. Hers was a life well lived.

HOUSTON'S FINEST—OFFICER TIMOTHY ABERNETHY

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week is Victims' Rights Week. Today I honor the life of Houston Police Officer Timothy Abernethy.

For Officer Abernethy, fighting crime was more than an occupation, it was his personal calling. He bravely dedicated his life to keeping the peace on the streets of Houston, Texas, until he was murdered on December 7, 2008, by a cowardly killer. The murder was cruel and it was calculated. After shooting Officer Abernethy once in the neck, the assassin calmly walked up and put the gun close to the back of the officer's head and fired again.

Recently, a jury in Houston convicted Mabry Landor, III, of capital murder of a police officer. This week the Texas jury sentenced the outlaw to death.

Officer Timothy Abernethy served the people of Houston for 11 years. He was married to Stephanie, and had children. He, like so many before him, put his life between the people and the lawless.

We as a Nation need to remember peace officers sometimes become victims of crime while taking care of the rest of us.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING ROY ISOM

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and the career of Roy Isom, a broadcasting legend in the San Joaquin Valley from California. Known as the Voice of Agriculture for over 40 years, Roy was a force in the broadcasting industry, relentless in reporting on issues that mattered the most to our communities.

Roy began his career at KFSN channel 30 and KYNO radio before moving to KMJ radio, where he spent the last 28 years. He was known as a workhorse, and his colleagues fondly remembered how he would begin his days at 1 a.m., getting ready for the farm report. Roy's hard work translated into stories and reports that were critical to making sense of what was going on in our valley and the Nation.

Whether it was reporting the first lunar landing or breaking down the agriculture news of the region, Roy's style and ethics serve as a role model to our younger generation of reporters and broadcasters because he was. Today, Roy is remembered by his family and friends and colleagues. Everyone who knew Roy, including myself, had a tremendous respect with him. I join with all the people of our valley in celebrating Roy's life and contributions to broadcasting.